



Discovery Horizons (pilot) & Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review

Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee

- One-year pilot, for proposals that would significantly benefit from peer review with a tri-agency scope
- Part of response to the *Fundamental Science Review* (Naylor Report)
- Applications received through SSHRC Insight Grants, CIHR Project Grants and NSERC Discovery Horizons Grants
- Researchers submit via the agency responsible for the project's dominant research area
- Single peer review committee assesses relevant applications from all three agencies

| SSHRC Insight Grants | CIHR Fall Project Grants | NSERC Discovery Horizons |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Application: October 1, 2021 | Registration: August 2021 | Letter of Intent: June 15, 2021 |
| | Application: September 2021 | Application: October 18, 2021 |

Discovery Horizons (pilot)

- Discovery Horizons grants support **investigator-initiated individual and team projects** that broadly integrate or transcend disciplines to advance knowledge in the natural sciences and engineering. ***Full applications submitted to this NSERC program will be reviewed by a tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee.***
- Duration: **Up to five years**
- Value: **From \$50K to \$100K per year**
- Total Discovery Horizons budget \$5M over 5 years (**10-20 awards**)

Eligibility

Applicants and Co-applicants

- Both individuals and teams may apply to the Discovery Horizons program. **The applicant and any co-applicants must all be eligible to hold NSERC funding.**
 - One person must be designated to administer the grant. This person is the “applicant” and is responsible for completing and submitting the full application on behalf of the team.
- There are no requirements with respect to team size or composition. However, individuals are only allowed to participate in one Discovery Horizons application, as either an applicant or co-applicant, per competition cycle.
- Note that the applicant may add or remove invitations to co-applicants and collaborators at both phases of the application process (LOI and full application).
- Researchers holding a Discovery Grant or applying for one this year are eligible to apply to Discovery Horizons.

Eligibility

Collaborators

- Collaborators contribute to the execution of research activities but do not have access to grant funds.
- Any individual whose contributions to the project will be supervised by a member of the research team and/or by another collaborator cannot be considered a collaborator.
- Collaborators do not need a Canadian affiliation

Eligibility

Subject matter eligibility

- An eligible proposal must meet **both of the following criteria:**
 1. Its primary objective must be to advance knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering
 2. It must integrate or transcend disciplines in ways that would significantly benefit from peer review by a tri-agency interdisciplinary committee
- Applications should be submitted to the agency that is responsible for the dominant research discipline(s) or area(s). Refer to *Selecting the appropriate federal granting agency*, and the *Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health* for further information.

Application procedure

Letter of intent – Due June 15th 2021

- The LOI is mandatory and includes a brief summary (2500 char) and responses to the four points below.
 - Explain how this project would benefit from being assessed by a tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee, as opposed to a joint review by [NSERC's Discovery Grants](#) evaluation groups (1000 char)
 - Demonstrate that the interdisciplinary approach is essential to achieving the project goals
 - Describe how the interdisciplinary approach enriches HQP training (1000 char)
 - Demonstrate that the interdisciplinary elements are integrated and inseparable (i.e., not sub-projects that could be reviewed on their own merit) (1000 char)
- Reviewers will assess program fit, to identify a limited number of LOI applicants who will be invited (no later than August 16) to submit a full application.

Application procedure

Full application – Due October 18th 2021

- Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal and will receive further guidance on application requirements with that invitation.
- Full applications will need to address the selection criteria listed below, in a ten-page (max) research proposal:
 - **Merit of the proposed research**
 - **Anticipated outcomes**
 - **Record of the applicant(s)**